

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO
HOUSE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE
REGARDING HB 553 BY REP. CALLAHAN
INJURED WORKER CHOICE OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

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QUESTION: Rep. Keane and Rep. Reinhart asked whether the Department of Labor and Industry could identify how often disputes arise over rehabilitation services.

ANSWER: The department maintains a database on all workers' compensation claims. The workers' compensation mediation unit codes each mediation petition with one issue code for each issue mediated. Each mediation request may have multiple issues.

Between January 1, 2005 and February 8, 2007 (approximately 25 months), the department mediated 3,671 issues. Ninety eight (98) or 2.7% of the mediations were concerning vocational rehabilitation issues. The coding used doesn't explain in detail the exact issue raised. The mediators indicate that most of the disputes arise over the results or conclusions reached by the vocational rehabilitation counselor in drafting a job placement analysis or retraining plan, not over the choice of the vocational rehabilitation provider.